

# FREE PRESS.

ISAAC H. JULIAN, - - - Editor

SAN MARCOS, TEXAS.

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## The Free Press for Prohibition.

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County Precinct Chairmen and Officers of Prohibition Clubs are requested to act as Agents and receive Subscriptions.

While at Fort Worth we called on Mr. Nolan, the editor of the new Labor paper, "The Southwest."

We believe it is generally conceded that Gov. Ross is the worst of used up men at the hands of Dr. Carroll.

Fort Worth has made great improvements since we last saw it, in 1883. Several new railroads since, and "still they come."

The letter of Senator Maxey on prohibition appears on our first page. It has been somewhat delayed, but is none the worse on that account. It is capital true democratic reading.

In the State of Maine prohibition has reduced the internal revenue tax per capita to about one fortieth of the whole country, and it has largely aided in reducing the number of prison convicts from 1 in 1,000 to 1 in 4,000.

As we neared Fort Worth on Thursday morning, our eyes were delighted with the view of a regular wheat harvest scene, not of the old style, but led by self-binding reapers, etc. The oats crop is also good up that way.

We met brother Cranfill on our return from Fort Worth. He appears to be thriving on the bitter opposition he is meeting. He informed us that some two thirds of the editors in attendance at the convention were found to be for prohibition, in spite of special effort to muster them on the other side. He thinks our cause is bound to win.

We reached Fort Worth too late to share in the proceedings of the Press Association, they having adjourned a day earlier than usual. We learned that more than ever before "a good time" was the main object in view. Our chief regret was missing the excursion on Thursday of some one hundred miles into the Indian Territory. However we had a rather pleasant day in "the Fort," and another at Austin on our return.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Cooper, sent out circular notes on the 16th addressed to trustees, and giving instructions. In section 7 the Superintendent says: It is the right and duty of each board of trustees to prescribe the text-books which shall be used in the district or community under their control. The trustees will have the right to exclude from the schools all books not prescribed for use in the schools.

There is one very significant fact in connection with the cotton congress which recently assembled in this city. A vote was taken on Prohibition and seventy voted for it and none against! The Farmers Alliance of Texas is one institution where barkeepers and one-horse lawyers are not allowed, and it is to them and the laboring organizations of the country that Prohibitionists will have to look for success. Wherever the hired lawyers and blood money can find leverage, our cause will suffer.—Waco Advance.

Hurray for the farmers. While the balance of power remains theirs and they continue to smile at the weak efforts and supineness of Mills, Gibbs and paid whisky attorneys, the country is safe; prohibition will carry.—Blanco News.

We mentioned recently having received a copy of the Montague Annual, and promised a further notice. This is a branch of the Chautauque system of schools, situated at Montague, Tenn., on the Cumberland plateau. The annual is a full illustrated presentation of the attractions of the institution and indicates its success. It shows that actual instruction in various departments of science as well as amusement is there dispensed. Following full miscellaneous information for the benefit of visitors, a detailed programme of the next session is given, beginning July 6 and ending Sept. 7. Among the long array of speakers announced are Rev. A. D. Mayo, Geo. W. Cable, Rev. W. H. Milburn, Hon. A. H. Colquitt, Miss Frances E. Willard, etc. A whole week is given to the friends of Temperance. Copies of the Annual will be sent to any person who will send three cents postage to "Montague Assembly," Montague, Tenn.

We are quite at a loss to perceive why our San Marcos Assembly may not be made at least an equal success with Montague. It needs only the same energy on the part of its management, an equal liberality on the part of wealthy friends, to place it alongside of its Tennessee sister. Of one thing we are sure: while the illustrations of scenery about Montague are creditable, they are far surpassed by some of Bailey's views about San Marcos.

We understand that Col. Mills has written a letter to a gentleman in this city denying that his speech, from which we make extracts to-day, was correctly reported in the Dallas Herald. We hope that he is right, for as it stands it is a disgrace to humanity.—Belton Reporter.

He said every word attributed to him by the Herald. When he denies it, we are ready to prove it by Mr. Pates, the stenographer, and by some of the best known and most responsible people of Dallas, who heard the speech entire, and stand ready to substantiate the Herald's report.—Dallas Herald.

Work on the San Marcos and Lockhart railroad has commenced, and the people of these two towns are exceedingly happy. If the road terminates at Lockhart, we see but little cause for rejoicing among the San Marcos people.

We find the above in the Victoria Advocate. We are surprised to find that paper so poorly posted. The road will not terminate at Lockhart, but will extend via Bastrop to Taylor, and in another direction will connect via La Grange, etc., with Houston. Hence there is good cause for our people to rejoice.

Letter From A. C. Mosher.  
LOS ANGELES CAL., May 17, 1887.

EDITOR FREE PRESS:—For several days after the first shock of earthquake at Tucson, there was a number of others. I don't think any of them as strong as the first, considerable damage done to large brick buildings, some of the peaks of the California mountains broke off, making great clouds of dust which the people took for volcanoes. The oldest inhabitants do not remember any shocks within less than 200 miles from Tucson; 150 people lost their lives by falling houses.

I left Tucson for this city on the 13th inst. The country to within 100 miles of here is a desert. At Maricopa the United States Marshal boarded the train with a white mountain Apache Indian who had murdered a white man, his sentence was a lifetime at the Yuma Penitentiary, he was very unconcerned. Ft. Yuma is a hot place, there was a steam boat here. It is the head of navigation.

Now we commence to cross the desert, nothing but sand here. We witnessed the wonderful mirage, great lakes appearing with numberless islands, trees and water in all directions. Arrived at Los Angeles on the 14th at 7 p. m., the 15th being Sunday I attended the Trinity M. E. Church South, a nice edifice all carpeted and seats cushioned. By appointment of the general conference the day was observed as children's day. Interest in the programme had been prepared, was fully carried out. At 10 o'clock the time appointed for beginning of the morning service the spacious auditorium was well filled by a congregation composed largely of children and young people. The room had been tastefully decorated for the occasion, and the bright flowers and bright faces of the children presented a scene of rare beauty. Suspended over the choir loft in front of the great organ was the motto—"Children's Day" wrought in orange blossoms. The choir, altar, communion table and stands were covered with flowers in various designs, wreaths, festoons, crosses, lilies and bouquets. There were songs by the congregation, anthems by the excellent choir, res-

ponsive readings, prayer by the pastor and recitations by the children. The central idea was "Christ the Good Shepherd." Rev. Standley made a fine talk.

This city is on a "boom." Brick and wooden houses building in all directions, many of them excel in architectural beauty and different from what we are used to in the South. Carpenter wages \$3 to \$3.50 per day of 9 hours, brick masons \$4 to \$5 per day of 8 hours, plasterers about the same I think. Board and lodging \$6.50 a week, rents high, wood \$9 to \$12 a cord, coal \$8 per ton. Potatoes, beans, strawberries all vegetables cheap.

Great numbers of real estate transfers made daily at surprising advances. I have been enjoying myself at the home of L. W. Mitchell whose family have done every thing to make my visit at Los Angeles enjoyable. He is now engaged in the real estate business and has made a large amount of money by the rapid advance of lands and lots.

The city has electric lights which cast a greenish appearance on every thing. It does not effect your correspondent. There are seven street car lines. Under the supervision of Mr. Guin, formerly of San Marcos, we made visits to places of interest. Washington garden is a beautiful resort, besides orange groves, they have monkeys, coons, rabbits, wild cats, quail, parrots and different kinds of canaries and ostriches. An ostrich is larger than a canary, when standing erect they are 7 feet high, their eggs are 4x6, these birds are valuable, worth from \$800 to \$1000 each. There are many shade trees, (the Eucalyptus grows 100 feet high), pepper trees, palm, banana and many others not known to me.

The geranium grows to be a tree. The cypress is cultivated in all shapes making arches hedges and cone shaped trees, very ornamental. The climate is cool, while riding in the open street cars to me a little unpleasant. In the mornings and evenings overcoats and cloaks are worn, I can't think for weak lunged people that moist cold climate is as good as further back in the foot hills. Can see snow on the mountains at all times. Water good. Respectfully,

A. C. Mosher.

### WASHINGTON LETTER.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, May 23rd 1887.

To-day more than a thousand tents whiten the greensward that stretches around the Washington Monument. The troops are now all here who intended to participate in the National Drill, and they represent Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Colorado, Dakota, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington Territory and the District of Columbia.

The Drill opened this morning, but the day was consumed by some formalities such as naming the camp, issuing orders, receiving the latest arrivals of troops etc., and this evening there was a dress parade by all of the organizations encamped, but the competitive drill begins to-morrow. The soldiers here represent the flower of the National Guard of their States, and many of the commands are noted for their excellent discipline and won trophies in State and interstate drills.

Such a camp has not been seen in this country since the veterans of the civil war broke their camp in '65. Now the soldiers of the North, South, East and West assemble in one camp and contend in friendly strife for the trophies of the peaceful drill ground.

Up to this time the greatest gathering of the kind was at "Camp R. C. Drum" in Mobile, two years ago, but the National Drill exceeds that more than three fold in number of military bodies that will take part.

The good people of Washington are rejoicing that the order permitting the sale of intoxicating liquors on the drill ground has been revoked. The bar privilege of the ground had been sold by the Drill Committee for \$1,800, but it is settled that only temperance drinks shall be dispensed at the refreshment counter under the grand stand this week. The revocation of the privilege has been attributed to the influence of the President through the efforts of some ladies of the W. T. C. U., who called upon him to interfere, and also to a suggestion from the Commissioner of public grounds, to the effect that the War Department, (to which the drill ground belongs) would be gratified if the committee would exclude intoxicating liquors. But from whatever source the influence may have come, most people were pleased with the final decision and action of the National Drill Committee.

After the close of the Drill the President will take a vacation of about ten days, accompanied by Mrs. Cleveland, Colonel Lamont and his family. They will go to Saranac Lake, New York, where the fishing is said to be good at this season. It is

said they will go on the second of June, which is the anniversary of the President's marriage. Doubtless he feels the need of rest, and the event could not, probably, be celebrated in a way more agreeable to him.

The financial situation has been demanding a great deal of the President's time and attention of late, as, indeed, it is the most important question now before him. On last Wednesday night the Secretary of the Treasury remained at the White House until two o'clock in the morning, talking over the matter with him. He is being urged by the advocates of the tariff reduction to call an extra session of Congress early in the fall for the purpose of considering revenue measures. But Secretary Fairchild is so safe and conservative a manager that there can be no real cause of alarm concerning the stringency of the money market, whether Congress is specially convened or not. Besides the Secretary's powers are sufficient, under existing laws to enable him to ward off any threatened danger. In the worst contingency that can be imagined he is at liberty to step into the open market and buy bonds for Government account.

Reported for the FREE PRESS.

### San Marcos Public Schools—Closing Exercises.

A visit to the San Marcos City Public Schools during the closing week found the children all busy as bees. In the higher grades, the pupils were passing a written examination which continued from Monday until Thursday noon. It was a pleasant sight to observe the determination and intense application manifested by all during the examination which was conducted in the several departments separately.

For the benefit of visitors, pupils were sent to the blackboard to recite from outlines, to work problems, or to illustrate methods. The class in geometry seemed at home with complicated diagrams which the pupils constructed rapidly and accurately. The classes in algebra, arithmetic, rhetoric and Latin passed through a thorough and rigid examination and their proficiency, as exhibited by oral and manuscript work was excellent. It was evident to all that nothing was pre-arranged for the children, and any one was at liberty to question any class upon its studies. In many instances, this right was exercised by visitors and trustees. In every instance, correct answers were given.

The specimens of penmanship indicated great improvement, and the many business letters and of friendship written by the pupils and placed on exhibition, proved an acquaintance with the conventional forms of letter writing. The students acquitted themselves with honor. An attendance upon the examinations would have proved conclusively that the pupils had made wonderful progress, that the discipline of the school is of the very best order, the instructions thorough.

The pupils were massed on Friday forenoon and the entertainment given by them was an unequalled success. Though the house was overcrowded by visitors and many standing without, yet perfect order prevailed, and strict attention was paid. The large assembly of heads of families and other refined and worthy citizens shows the deep interest felt by our community in the character and usefulness of the Public Schools, and in the progress and advancement in learning of the children committed to its care for instruction.

Dialogues, select readings, essays and recitations constituted the order of exercises which were highly interesting and called forth hearty encomiums from the large and appreciative audience. Where all did so well, it would be wrong to name particulars. Many of the boys and girls from the primaries displayed special excellence. They appeared promptly when called and showed a self-possession which was remarkable. We could not but feel justice to the pupils in A and B grades, and we are at a loss to know to whom to award the prize for excellence. Their readings and recitations were rendered with such ease of manner as well as naturalness of voice, such distinctness of enunciation and correctness of pronunciation that they were pronounced well by all. Only two essays were read, Miss Cornelia Daley's essay, "A School Girl's Grievance," was depicted in her usual pleasant manner. Miss Minnie McDaniel's composition, while not admitting of original flights, was pronounced expressive reading and spoke volumes in her praise.

My report would be incomplete were I to omit the name of Prof. Williams' little 5 year old "Karl." He stood before the audience with smiling face, sparkling eyes and did "his talking too" in a clear ringing voice. He won the admiration of all. The Hon. Judge Ed. R. Kane and Mr. Chas. Hutchins were requested to make the presentation addresses to those pupils who had merited prizes. The gentlemen performed their duty in their usual interesting and impressive style.

At the close visitors and pupils departed with smiling faces, and happy parents greeted smiling children with happy hearts upon their success. And now they sneak around in fence corners and tell the poor untutored negroes that the saloon tax pays for the education of their children. To put this beyond all doubt, they explain that on every saloon-keeper's license it is expressly stated that the money paid for it shall go directly to educate the negro children. This is the way the rummies are carrying out the orders of Anheuser-Busch to see that the negroes ignorant farmers and ranchmen of Texas, are made to vote right. This means to vote Anheuser-Busch the privilege of making more money by flooding Texas with beer and ruin. Any cause that needs to be supported by such infamous crookedness as this deserves to die forever.—Waco Advance.

The fact that France could remain without a Ministry for a whole week, as it has now done, and no attempt at revolution made, nor even a demonstration by the lawless elements, is evidence that the present republic in seventeen years has taught the French people more moderation and self-restraint than they acquired under other Governments in the previous 100 years.—Fort Worth Gazette.

"What did you do the first time you got into battle?" said a young lady to an old soldier. "Of course you didn't run!"

"Oh, no, I didn't run, Miss, not at all, but if I had been going for a doctor, and you had seen me, you would have thought somebody was awful sick."

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